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WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1900-SIXTEEN PAGES.

Subcommittee.

Called for Next Saturday

Morning.

The special subcommittee of the Hous

telephone bill has completed its work and submitted a tentative bill to the full committee. A special meeting of the full com-nittee has been called for next Saturday

at 10:30 to consider the measure,

The tentative bill is a medification of House bill 8780. The changes proposed by

the subcommittee do not touch the question

of what company shall receive the charter

but relate to the form of the charter. Mr

Pearre introduced the amended bill in the

House today, and it was referred to the full

committee to be considered in executive

The Principal Amendments.

The principal amendments suggested by

In section 5 strike out the words "neces-

sary to the operation of a telephone ex-change of at least 1,500 subscribers within

the time limited in this section;" and make

the bond of \$100,000 to be furnished by the

ters."

In section 11 strike out these words:

"The amount of the capital stock may be increased in the discretion of the stock-holders for the purpose of improving or extending its plant in the District of Columbia, or for purchasing, or connecting with other telephone companies beyond the limits of said District."

of said District."

The subcommittee also added a section that the company shall pay an annual tax of — per cent on the gross receipts, in lieu of all taxes on personal property. The amount of the percentage will be fixed by the full committee.

It is the purpose of leading members of the committee to urge action upon the bill, to relieve the local situation respecting exorbitant telephone rates.

LOSS CLOSE TO \$1,000,000

Dry Goods District of Newark, N. J.

Swept by Fire.

NEWARK, N. J., February 28 .- The fire-

men were still hard at work today playing

streams of water on the smoldering ruins of the large fire which last night swept

through the entire dry goods district of

Newark, N. J. The fire started in W. B.

Snyder's department store, at Broad and

Cedar streets, and destroyed the stores of

J. M. Mentz & Co., hosiery; Bornstein &

Co., shoes, and Bierman, pawnbroker. Besides these buildings and Snyder's depart-

ment store, three three-story buildings on

the north side of Cedar street were guited

and much damage was sustained by Thos.

B. Allen, confectionery; Peddie & Co., trunks; David Strauss & Co., department

store; N. Y. Rea, jewelry; P. J. Garrigan, drugs; Cairns, photograph gallery; the big Bee Hive department store and a number

Injured Doing Well.

that Fireman Walter Harrison, who was

seriously burned at the fire, was doing as well as could be expected. The condition

of Elmer Cardner, another fireman, who

was caught under a falling wall, is criti-

cal. He has a broken leg and sustained internal injuries. Of the other injuries fire-

men-Thomas Brown, Andrew Bessinger

and Joseph Huber—none is supposed to be seriously hurt. Oscar Schaekelton, super-intendent of Snyder's department store, who was rescued from the burning building

while his clothing was ablaze, is improved. Much of his clothing was burned off, and his hands were badly burned. It is be-lieved that his injuries will probably not

Loss Nearly \$1,000,000.

The total amount of property destroyed

was valued at nearly a million dollars.

The principal losses, according to revised

estimates, are: W. B. Snyder, \$550,000, in-

surance 80 per cent; J. M. Mentz, \$50,000,

insurance \$82,000; L. Bornstein, \$20,000, in-

surance \$15,000; Joseph Cohen, \$8,000, cov-

ered by insurance; D. Strauss & Co., \$5,000,

covered by insurance: Watson Heddenberg

covered by insurance; Watson Heddenberg, \$2.500, covered by insurance; C. D. Peddie & Co., \$5,000, covered by insurance; P. J. Garrigan, \$5,000, covered by insurance; W. T. Rae, \$2,500, covered by insurance; Corey & Stewart estate, \$5,000, covered by insurance; Corey & Stewart estate, \$5,000, covered by insurance; L. S. Plant & Co., Bee Hive, \$20,000, covered by insurance; C. Biemann, \$20,000, insurance \$12,000; F. G. Crowell estate, dwelling occupied by Mrs. C. C. Crowell, buildings damaged \$1,500, covered by insurance.

Fatality at a Chicago Fire.

escues during the progress of the blaze.

CALLED ON SECRETARY HAY.

Ambi sandor Powell Clayton on Our Relations With Mexico.

Mr. Powell Clayton, United States am-

ssador to Mexico, who is in the United

States on a leave of absence from his post,

called at the State Department this morn-

ing, and spent half an hour in conversa

tion with Secretary Hay, touching upon the

conditions in Mexico as affecting American interests. These were represented by Mr. Clayton to be in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, and it appears that the relations between the United States and Mexico have never been on a better footing than at the present time.

ARMOR FOR NEW SHIPS.

of navigation, and Commander Cowles, as-sistant chief, were before the House com-

mittee on naval affairs today to discuss the important topics of armor and of new ships for the navy. The hearing was private.

prove fatal.

session later, as stated.

the subcommittee are as follows:

TWO CENTS.

VICTORY FOR BULLER

He Carries Pieters Hill, Capturing About Sixty Prisoners.

HE HAS TURNED JOUBERT'S LEFT

More Details of the Capture of General Cronje's Force.

PRISONERS AT MODDER RIVER

LONDON, February 28.-The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen .Buller:

"Headquarters, Hlandwani, February 28, 5 a.m.-Finding that the passage of Lange-wacht's Spruit was commanded by strong intrenchments, I reconnoitered for anothe passage of the Tugela. One was found for e below the cataract by Col. Sandbach, Royal Engineers, on February 25. We commenced making an approach thereto, and on February 26, finding that I could make the passage practicable, I crossed the guns and baggage back to the south side of the Tugela, took up the pontoon bridge on Monday night and relaid it at the new site which is just below the point marked cataract. During all this time the troops had been scattered, crouching under hastily constructed small stone shelters and exposed to a gailing shell and rifle fire, and throughout they maintained the most excellent

Gen. Barton's Advance.

"Tuesday Gen. Barton, with two battalions of the 6th Brigade and the Dublin Fusil-Hers, crept about a mile and a half down the banks of the river and ascended an almost precipitate cliff of about 500 feet, assaulted and carried the top of Pieter's Hill. This hill, to a certain extent, turned the enemy's left, and the 4th Brigade, under Col. Norcott, and the 11th Brigade, Col. Kitchener commanding, the whole under command of Gen. Warren, assailed the enemy's position, which was magnificently carried by the South Lancashire Regiment about sunset. We took about sixty prisoners and scattered the enemy in all directions. There seems to be still a considerable body of them left on and under Bulwana mountain. Our losses, I hope, are not large. They certainly are much less than they would have been were it not for the admirable manner in which the artillery was served, especially the guns manned by the royal naval force and the Natal Na-

val Volunteers. Queen Regrets Buller's Losses.

queen has telegraphed General Bulle "I have heard with the deepest concern

the heavy losses sustained by my brave Irish soldiers, and I desire to express my sympathy and admiration of the splendid fighting qualities they have exhibited throughout these trying operations."

STRONG WORDS FROM RUSSIA.

Newspapers Openly Advocate Armed Intervention for the Boers.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 28.-The newspapers here outdo the rest of the continental press in bewailing General Cronte's defeat and in virulently abusing Great Britain. They declare that the Transvaal has fully demonstrated its right to complete political independence, with an outlet to the sen. They suggest that the best help for the Boers would be to create a diversion against Great Britain elesewhere and maintain it is the duty of Europe to interven and "end the most infamous of all the wars England has ever waged for predatory pur-

HOW CRONJE SURRENDERED. Details of the Brilliant Victory Woo

PAARDEBERG, Tuesday, February 27, Majuba day, 3 a.m.—The British camp was awakened by the continued rattle of rifle

fire at daybreak, and the news arrived that the Canadians, while-building a trench quite close to the enemy, were fusilladed at t range of fifty yards. The Canadians gallantly worked forward and occupied the edge of the trenches along the river, entirely enfilading the Boers. This movement was followed by a cessation of the fire, except an occasional solitary shot

Suddenly a regiment stationed on the erest of a hill perceived a white flag and burst into cheers, thus first announcing the surrender of Gen. Cronte.

Shortly afterward a note reached Lord Roberts bringing tidings of the Boers' unconditional surrender. Gen. Prettyman was

conditional surrender. Gen. Prettyman was sent to accept the surrender. At about 7 o'clock a small group of men appeared in the distance, crossing the plain toward headquarters. The latter being apprised of Gen. Cronje's approach, Lord Roberts walked to the front in the modest coat in which he sleeps and ordered a guard of the Seaforths to line up. A group of horsemen then approached. On Gen. Prettyman's right rode an elderly man, clad in a rough short overcoat, a widebrimmed hat, ordinary tweed trousers and brown shoes. It was the redoubtable Cronje. His face was almost burned black and his curily beard was tinged with gray.

GEN. BULLER'S HARD TASK.

He Loses Heavily in Assaulting a

Roer Position. LONDON, February 28.-A special dispatch from Colenso, dated Tuesday, February 27, says:

"The Boers are endeavoring to outflank us and severe fighting continues." In the attempt of the Inniskillings Friday evening to rush the Boer position

Pieter's Hill, the Boer fire was so terrib that when the infantry emerged from the cover of the trees almost every man in the leading half of the company feil wounded. The advance line of the British reached a donga in front of the first Boer trench, which was not apparent until they

trench, which was not apparent were actually in it.

The kloers retired to the crest and then returned on either flank of the Inniskil-lings, enfilading the captured donga with The Boers recommended to the returned on either flams returned on either flams returned on either flams illngs, enfillading the captured domain a terrible cross fire.

Finding it impossible to advance or to British fell back was up and the best was up a server of the back was up and the back was to be a back with the British fell back was up and the back was to be a back with the back was the back with the back with the back with the back was to be a back with the back was to be a back with the back with the back with the back was to be a back with the back with the

fire. In the course of the night the Dublin Fusiliers and the Connaughts arriving to support the Inniskillings, another determined attempt was made to take the Boer positions. This also failed. A heavy fire continued throughout the night.

The Inniskillings lost fourteen out of

The Inniskillings lost fourteen out of seventeen officers killed and wounded, and shout two hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and men killed and

Gen. Lyttleton's brigade relieved Gen. Gen. Lyttleton's brigade relieved Gen. Hart's brigade in the morning; and the artillery duel was continued yesterday (Saturday), though no great damage was done. Today an armistice was agreed upon to enable both sides to collect their dead and wounded. The Boers admit having had very heavy losses, but they scout

he idea that the British will compel them

the idea that the British will compel them to raise the siege of Ladysmith.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Monday, describes at considerable length the "enormous difficulties of Gen. Builer's task." and says:

'The real advance began last Wednesday. The stupendous nature of the task was only understood when, being on the spot, one was able to realize what it means to hurl infantry at positions aligned in every direction with carefully prepared irenehes, and with breastworks defended by practically invisible riflemen, armed with the most deadly rapid-firing weapons, and aided by quick-firing guns which put all but our cannon of the largest caliber into the shade."

Commenting upon Friday's fighting, the correspondent says: "As it would have been madness to seek an outlet from the amphitheater of hills by way of Grobler's Kloof, on the left, a route had to be found on the right, and at 2 p.m. on Friday, amid the incessant crackling of rifle fire and the roar of cannon, the Irish Brigade was dispatched along the river to take Railway Hill, on the other side of Pieter's station.

"This hill is commanding enough to in-

"This hill is commanding enough to in-

"This hill is commanding enough to insure our final advance, providing we could hold it securely and could mount cannon on it. From Onderbrook Spruit railway bridge the track runs along the Tugela. "Beyond Pleter's station the line passes over another small bridge crossing a deep donga, and it was in the approach to this bridge and onward to the base of Railway Hill that the greatest danger from enforced exposure obtained. The path between the railway and the river was almost always in full view of the enemy. "Every man of the Irish brigade had, therefore, to run the gauntlet of Boer marksmen, and numbers dropped on the bridge, where the Boer bullets fell dangerously thick, until the bridge was sand-bagged, and only one man allowed on it at a time. "Year soon fifty men were put out of ac-

"Very soon fifty men were put out of ac-on in the race from the bridge to the endezvous, and several members of the clunter ambulance corps were wounded n following the troops."
The Daily Mail has the following from

The Daily Mail has the following from Ladysmith, dated Saturday, February 24: "Yesterday the Boer retreat continued. A party of about seventy, en route for the north, drew rein near Limit Hill. A battery of fifteen-pounders, placed not far off, suddenly opened fire and practically annihilated the party, A Boer ambulance was later on seen collecting the dead and wounded.

"The Boers are trying to form a bridge or drift across Klip river, south of Um-bulwans, evidently for the purpose of per-mitting the passage of wagons and arti-lery in their ratirement from Colenso. Our guns are preventing this work being car-ried on."

SEARCH WAS FRUITLESS.

Revenue Cutter Onondago Could Not Find Spanish Derelict.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. NORFOLK, Va., February 28.-The revenue cutter Onondaga returned to this port today after a fruitless search for the Spanish steamship Minerva. The fate of the missing vessel is unknown. She is drifting helplessly at sea, with her crew aboard. While bound for Baltimore or Philadelphia with a cargo of iron ore she ran short of coal, and was picked up by the British steamship Parana, which towed her until she encountered the recent ter-rific hurricane, in the midst of which the rific hurricane, in the midst of which the dead weight of the Minerva dragging astern threatened to swamp her would-be deliverer, who was compelled to abandon the Spaniard to her fate.

The revenue cutter is rushing coal aboard preparatory to starting again to search for the missing ship, whose crew must be, marine men say, half dead either from starvation or cold.

FLAG INCIDENT AT GUAYAMAS. Five Mexicans and Three Americans Killed in the Fracas.

CHICAGO, February 28.-A special to the Tribune from Guayamas, Mexico, says: Washington's birthday a shooting affray occurred at Pilares de Tierra, in which three Americans and five Mexicans were killed. From accounts it appears a friendorder to do honor to the United States, it was arranged on February 22 to raise the flags of the two republics together on the dagstaff

The Mexicans had charge of the affair and raised the American flag above the Mexican, to the complete satisfaction of the Americans. But when the Americans egan to show so much appreciation of the mistake and decided to lower and rehoist the flags, with the Mexican flag on top. Fren the Americans declared such a trans-action would be an insult to the United States flag. Superintendent Danforth told the Mexi

Superintendent Danforth told the Mexicans that they would have to shoot him before they could haul down the American flag. It was held that the flags should have been hoisted properly in the first place. The Mexicans were about to mob Danforth, when Charles Hogsett (who during the Spanish war was with the Rough Riders in Cuba) interposed with a six-shooter in each hand. Firing from both sides immediately ensued and Hogsett was sides immediately ensued and Hogsett was ides immediately ensued and Hogsett war instantly killed. John Evans and Dick nstantly killed. instantly killed. John Evans and Dick Rea, two other Americans, were mortally wounded. The Americans, however, held the flag pole, and both flags floated through the day. Five Mexicans were killed, and the dance which was to have followed was a fallure, as no Mexicans attended, and there were less than half a dozen Ameri-cans in condition for dancing.

COURT DECLINED TO ACT.

R. J. Breckinridge Files a Claim fo Recognition at Frankfort.

FRANKFORT, Ky., February 28.-In th ourt of appeals today, R. J. Breckinridge. lemocratic attorney general, filed a motion lemanding that the court recognize him. Republican Attorney General Pratt object

The court declined to pass on the questio at once and ordered the matter submit as a decision would involve all of the tests over minor state offices.

MORE FIGHTING IN MEXICO.

Maya Indians Attack Governmen

Troops in State of Oaxaca. CHICAGO, February 28.-A special to the ecord from Oaxaca, Mex., says: Information has reached the military auhorities here of desperate fighting between the government troops and the Maya Indians during the last seven uays, began on February 21, when a force of about 600 Indians attacked a regiment of about 500 Indians between Saban and flans during the last seven days. Fighting

began on February 21, when a force of about 600 Indians attacked a regiment of General Bravo's troops between Saban and Okop. The battle lasted several hours and resulted in but slight losses to the government forces. Five soldiers were killed and two officers and fifteen soldiers were wounded. The Indians retreated to their intrenchments, carrying with them over 100 killed and wounded.

On the following day another brisk skirmish was brought about by an advance detachment of government troops attempting to reconnoiter the position of the Indians. Three Mexicans were killed in that fight. On February 25 a force of 1.200 Mayas attacked the outposts of the government troops and after driving in the sentries a desperate attack was made on the intrenchments. The Indians were armed with Krag-Jorgensens, which they had obtained from traders, and they poured a hot fire into the Mexican camp. Several pieces of light-artillery were brought into use by the Mexicans and the rebels were driven. of light artillery were brought into use by the Mexicans and the rebels were driven the Mexicans and the rebels were criven back. Their losses are believed to have been heavy. Ten soldiers were wounded and one killed. The Indians have established their main camp in an almost impenetrable forest. The rebels have free communication with the people of British Honduras, who are said to be in sympathy with their cause.

District Centennial Committee Submits Its Report.

PRESIDENT WILL SEND IT TO CONGRESS

Many Representatives Confer About Porto Rican Bill:

OTHER CALLERS TODAY

The executive committee of the District of Columbia centennial committee-Senator Perkins, District Commissioner Wight, John Joy Edson, M. M. Parker, W. V. Cox and Gen. George H. Harries-called on President McKinley this morning and presented committee. This report gives the plans for he centennial celebration, together with the propositions for the enlargement of the White House and the building of a cen-

tennial avenue The President will send the report to Conress, with a message of his own recommending the adoption of the plans prooosed. The President expressed gratifica tion at the work of the committee, and was especially pleased with the recommendation for an enlargement of the White House. It is thought he will add a personal recommendation on this subject in the mes-sage he will send to Congress. He would sage he will send to Congress. He would hesitate to alone recommend an enlargement, inasmuch as he would not care to be misunderstood, but as the governors of sil the states have united in an expression of the absolute need for a larger building he will strengthen their action by his own recommendation.

The committee was satisfied with the interview, and each member feels that the active aid of the President is certain at all stages of the work for the centennial.

Conferences on Porto Rico Bill. The great importance of the fight in the House over the Porto Rican tariff measure was keenly felt today at the White House, where discussion of the subject was almost continuous. The President realizes as strongly as any member of his party that the question is one of extensive consequence. He stands with his party and desires to see, as exclusively told in The Star yesterday, the passage of the amended measure providing for a tariff of 15 per cent of the Dingley law and a provisional qualification as to the time of operation. If he cared to use his influence, one way or the other, he would request members of the House to vote for the measure as the republican leaders propose to pass it, but he has done nothing more than to give his opinion to those republicans who have seen fit to ask him for it. Many of them have conferred with him during the last three days, both supporters and opponents of the bill. Each side has gone away with the understanding that the President will be satisfied with the passage of the bill. was keenly felt today at the White House.

Going Over the Bill.

Representative Tawney, who is in charge of the republican alignment for the vote tolay, called early at the White House, in forming the President that the vote would

forming the President that the vote would be close, but that he believed the bill would pass. Mr. Tawney went over the opposition to the bill in detail, telling the President about the weak places and the work being done to strengthen them.

Representative McCleary also talked later with the President. So did Representative Loud of California, Prince of Illinois, Sperry of Connecticut, and others. The two latter, Mr. Prince particularly, have been ranked against the bill, and it was thought might vote against it at the last minute. Two democrats who have been talked of as in favor of the bill were also at the White House, but were on other business, and did not talk of Porto Rico. They were Representatives Meyer of Louisiana and Davis sentatives Meyer of Louisiana and Davis of Florida. Mr. Davis is going to vote against the bill, but no one knew Repre-sentative Meyer's intentions this morning. Representative McCleary said that he hought the bill would pass by a majority f two or three. Representative Loud said: Both sides are confident, but both are als

cak. Senators Allison, Gallinger, Depew and Elkins talked with the President, some of hem about the Porto Rican fight.

Today's Nominations.

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate; Treasury—Thomas W. Wheeler of New York, to be surveyor of customs for the port of Port Jefferson, N. Y.

Postmasters: Massachusetts—William F.
Wiley, Peabody: Edward A. Ellis Newton Center; Stephen Osgood, Georgetown.
New York—Gilbert Francis, Ellenville; Charles T. Jackson, Goshen; Wm. C. Collins Homer na, Homer.
Pennsylvania—James H. Morrison, Malenville: Byron G. Hahn, Wilkesbarre.
New Jersey—George B. Jacobus, Cald-

Michigan-Eugene T. Slayton, Lapeer.

Missouri-Charles A. Sawyer, Jackson. Indiana-F. M. McDowell, Winamac. California—H. A. Plimpton, Perris. Florida—F. A. Root, Miami. Kansas—J. H. Smith, Downs.

Kansas-J. H. Smith, Downs,
Ohio-F. T. Miles, Salem.
Army-Major H. M. O'Rellly, surgeon, to
be deputy surgeon general, with rang of
lieutenant colonel; Captain Wm. J. Wakeman, assistant surgeon, to be surgeon, with
rank of major; Second Lieutenant C. H.
Whipple, jr., 1st Artillery, to be second
lieutenant of infantry.

ARRESTED AND DEGRADED. Testimony of the Publisher of an

The investigation of the course of the United States military forces in connection with the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, mining troubles was resumed today by the Hous committee on military affairs.

committee on military affairs.

Wilbur H. Stewart, publisher of a paper at Mullan, Idaho, a town near the scene or rotting, testified at considerable length. He said his paper had no official connection with the miners, and he had no part in the riots at the time of the blowing up of the mill. Subsequently, however, he was ar rested without warrant at his office by State Auditor Bartlett Sinclair and an army officer. Mr. Sinclair stated to witness tha officer. Mr. Sinclair stated to witness that he was accused of publishing seditious mat officer. Mr. Shiciair stated to witness that he was accused of publishing seditious matter. A special train took him to Wallace, and after a night in jail he was put in the "bull pen." The officer who arrested him wore the uniform of the United States army, and was in charge of the military forces. Mr. Stewart described the interior of the "pen" along the same lines as previous witnesses. He said he was compelled by the negro soldiers to do revolting work.

Stewart testified that when he got sick and refused to do the work on account of liness the negro soldiers used obscene language and oaths against him, until the corporal of the guard made them desist. The general treatment of the men in the "pen," he said, was revolting to an American citizen. They were frequently insulted.

Mr. Stewart will continue his testimony when the investigation is resumed tomorrow.

row.

At the request of Representative Lentz
the following additional witnesses were subthe following additional witnesses were sub-poenaed: L. J. Simpkins, Wardner; Chas. Francis. Montana; George Cornell, Burke, At the request of Representative Dick, the following were subpoenaed: J. J. Coak-ley, Weiser, Idaho; Wm. Pipkin, Burke; A. B. Campbell, Spokane; Hugh France, Fred. Burbridge, W. S. Pipes and Roger S. Rog-ers, Wardner; Henry Hawes, Wallace, and Coumer Mallot, Spokane.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE THE TELEPHONE BILL BY ABOUT FIVE VOTES

A Tentative Measure Agreed Upon by the Porto Rican Bill.

Special Meeting of Full Committee CLOSING THE DEBATE IN HOUSE

Representative Cummings Caused District committee having charge of the a Sensation.

FINANCE BILL EXPLAINED

The last day of the struggle over the Porto Rico tariff bill in the House of Representatives opened at 11 o'clock with almost every member in his seat and a large attendance in the galleries. The leaders on both sides were actively engaged in rallying their forces and making computations upon

the final vote at 3 o'clock. Mr. Underwood (Ala.), the democratic whip, said the result would be very close and turn upon the vote of two or three men on the democratic side. Mr. Tawney, the republican whip, predicted that the bill would have five votes to spare. He said the main danger lay in the motion to re commit.

Immediately after the reading of th journal the clerk began reading the bill for amendment under the five-minute rule,

the bond of \$100,000 to be furnished by the company conditional upon the performance of all the requirements of the charter, and strengthen the provisions for forfeiture in case of non-compliance.

In section 7 strike out these words, "and each subscriber shall at the time of subscribing pay in cash 10 per centum of the amount subscribed by him; otherwise the subscription shall be null and void. The balance of the amount subscribed shall be paid as called for by the board of directers." Proposed Tariff for Porto Rico. When section 3 was reached Mr. Payne chairman of the ways and means committee, offered the following substitute for that

section: "Section 3. That on and after the passage of this act all merchandise coming into the of this act all merchandise coming into the United States from Porto Rico and coming, into Porto Rico from the United States shall be entered at the several ports of entry upon payment of 15 per cent of the duties which are required to be levied, col-lected and paid upon like articles of mer-chandise imported from foreign countries; and in addition thereto upon articles of and, in addition thereto, upon articles of merchandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the United States and withmerenandise of Porto Rican manufacture coming into the United States and withdrawn for consumption or sale upon payment of a tax equal to the internal revenue tax imposed in the United States upon the like articles of merchandise of domestic manufacture; such tax to be paid by internal revenue stamps or stamps to be purchased and provided by the commissioner of internal revenue and to be procured from the collector of internal revenue at or most convenient to the port of entry of said merchandise in the United States, and to be affixed under such regulations as the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe; and on all articles of merchandise of United States manufacture coming into Porto Rico in addition to the duty above provided in payment of a tax equal in rate and amount to the internal revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon revenue tax imposed in Porto Rico upon like articles of Porto Rican manufacture." like articles of Porto Rican manufacture."
Mr. Payne explained that the substitute
did two things; it reduced the duty from
25 to 15 per cent and it also removed some
confusion regarding double taxation. Mr.
Payne said he still adhered to the opinion
that 25 per cent would be better than 15,
because it would raise more revenue, but
15 per cent was better than nothing.
In answer to a question as to how much

15 per cent was better than nothing.

In answer to a question as to how much the bill as amended would raise, Mr. Payne said the estimate for the original bill was \$1,700,000. If that estimate was correct the amended bill would raise about \$1,250,-600 per annum. Mr. Payne took occasion to reprove some of his critics who had complained that he had given no explanation of his change of front. His speech and his report, he said, gave a full explanation. He had believed in free trade with Porto Rico at one time, but subsequent information had convinced him that the duty proposed by the pending bill should be imposed.

The Substitute Attacked.

Mr. Berry (Ky.) said the amendment proposed petty instead of grand larceny of the eople of Porto Rico. He ridiculed the laborious debate through which the House had passed over the question of what the United States" meant under the Constitu-"United States" meant under the Constitution. If this country had been called "Colimbia" instead of the "United States"
1,200 pages of the Congressional Record
could have been eliminated. No one would
have had the hardihood to contend then
that the Constitution did not extend over
every foot of soil.

Mr. De Armond (Mo.) called attention to
the peculiar language of the substitute.
The words "coming into the United
States," he said, were plainly intended to
evade the Constitution. But he argued
that tha "murdering of the queen's En-

that the "murdering of the queen's En glish" and the "violation of the canons o language" could not make it constitutional Mr. Grow (Pa.), the venerable ex-Sp of the House, and Mr. Graff (III.) of the House, and Mr. Graff (III.) spoke briefly in support of the bill. The latter said his contituents expected him to abide by the will of the majority of his party. He did not desire to go back to his district to apologize for his party by announcing that he was right and it was wrong. He referred to the history of the efforts of the democrats to prematurely force the administration into the Spanish war in vindication of the policy of standing by the administration.

Mr. Fitzgerald (Mass.), in opposing the bill, referred to the expressed determination

Mr. Fitzgerald (Mass.), in opposing the bill, referred to the expressed determination of Secretary Root to increase the number of native troops in Porto Rico. Mr. Fitz-gerald wanted to know to what nation those native troops belonged. Were they to be told that the American flag they were sworn to defend meant one thing for Porto Rico and another to the United States Were they to become American citizens 5 per cent off?

Would Stand by the Party.

dwelling occupied by Mrs. C. C. Crowell, buildings damaged \$1500, covered by insurance; Mrs. M. Matthews, \$8,000, insurance \$6,000; T. D. Allen's residence, Cedar street, \$500, covered by insurance; Bughton music store, \$1,500, covered by insurance; Dr. John P. Donlevy, Rutherford flats, \$1,500, covered by insurance; Dr. Charles P. Stockton, Rutherford flats, \$3,000, covered by insurance; Rutherford flats, \$7,500. Mr. Bromwell (Ohio), who has hitherto opposed the bill, after paying his respects o some of his Ohio colleagues (Grosvenor CHICAGO, February 28.-One woman lost and Shattuc), said that he was now conher life and three other persons were invinced that the administration which three jured in a fire that destroyed an apartmonths ago recommended free trade for ment house at 325-327 Wells street last night. The firemen made several heroic Porto Rico now earnestly desired the pasage of this bill. It mattered little whether returned to Congress, he said, but it is of great importance that the republi-Miss Kate Engeman, a dressmaker, nine-een years old, was overcome by smoke and can party should remain in power. His an-nouncement that he had decided to stand died at a hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Frieherg and Miss
Mary Pierson, a dressmaker, were slightly by his party in the present emergency was

by his party in the present emergency was greeted with applause.

Mr. Grosvenor ((Ohio) said that much of the opposition to the pending bill was due to the fact that it was misunderstood. As late as last Saturday night the editor of a prominent republican paper had made the statement to him that the bill proposed that we should put our hands into the pockets of starving Porto Ricans. When he learned that all the money collected at both ends of the line went to the Porto Ricans he was astonished. He had also a letter from a dstinguished divine complaining of the proposed robbery of the Porto Ricans.

Mr. Otey ((Va.) followed Mr. Grosvenor with a speech which convulsed the House

with a speech which convulsed the House and galleries. He mimicked the manner isms of some of the republican leaders concluding with a parody upon the speech of Mr. Cannon (Ill.) yesterday.

Adopted Without Division. The Payne amendment was adopted with-

Many members on both sides of the Hearing Held by the House Naval Af-fairs Committee. Secretary Long, Admiral Dewey, Rear

Many members on both sides of the House made brief five-minute speeches explaining their position.

Mr. Richardson (Tenn.) had read a communication from a delegation of Porto Ricans appealing for free trade.

Mr. Payne in reply said the gentlemen who signed that communication were all directly pecuniarily interested he exporting sugar and tobacco into the United States. They were whining about the lobbles of

BY ABOUT FIVE VOTES the United States Congress shedding tears for the poor people of Porto Rico, yet they were unwilling to sacrifice \$100,000 for the benefit of the island. So far as the merchants' association of New York was concerned, it was interested in free trade with all the world.

To Operate for Two Years. A verbal amendment to section 4 was

adopted. Mr. Payne then offered the folowing additional section, agreed upon at the conference of republicans on Monday

"This act shall be taken and held to be provisional in its purposes and intended to meet a pressing present need for revenue for the Island of Porto Rico and shall not for the Island of Porto Rico and shall not continue in force after March 1, 1902."

Mr. Powers (Vt.), who was the author of the amendment, supported it. With him, he said, there was a question as to the constitutionality of the bill and one as to its expediency. A case was already in the courts, he said, which would eventually settle the question of constitutional law. As to the expediency, this section would make the measure temporary and provisional. It was, he understood, satisfactory to the President, and, that being the case, he was willing to give the amended bill his support. (Republican applause.)

Mr. Sibley for the Game.

Mr. Sibley for the Game.

Mr. Sibley (Pa.) announced his intentio of voting for the bill in a ten-minute speech that attracted much attention. He said that all the testimony before the insular committee showed that the people of Porto Rico were in a deplorable condition. While we were in a deplorable condition. While we were debating the situation they were starving. For himself, he considered it his duty to support this bill. But Porto Rico was a mere incident to the broader proposition.

"The emergency," interrupted Mr. Williams (Ill.), "is not in Porto Rico, but in the politics of the republican party." (Democratic applause.)

ocratic applause.)

Mr. Sibley—"You have located the politics on the wrong side." (Republican ap-

plause.)
Mr. Williams—"It is pretty hard to locate Mr. Williams—"It is pretty hard to locate you." (Laughter.)

Mr. Sibley replied that, as he had said before, his seat could be considered constructively on the republican side. Condinuing, he said that if it was established that every foot of territory owned by the United States was on an absolute equality then he was opposed to the whole policy of expansion. If the inhabitants of the Philippines could compete with American production and American labor he was willing to give the archipelago to Aguinaido. This bill did not exploit the people of Porto Rico; every dollar it raised went to relieve the distress which every witness testified existed in Porto Rico. Mr. Sibley concluded with a scathing characterization of his democratic critics.

Mr. Tompkins Won Over.

Mr. Tompkins Won Over. Mr. Tompkins (N. Y.), who was one of the

original republican opponents of the bill, announced briefly his reasons for giving his announced briefly his reasons for giving his support to the amended measure.

Mr. Hepburn (Iowa), in the course of his remarks, said he was hazarding nothing when he said that the treaty by which Porto Rico and the Philippines became ours could never have been ratified without democratic support.

"You gentlemen," said he, addressing the democratis "are regrouping.

"You gentlemen," said he, addressing the democrats, "are responsible. And now you contend that there is no power under the Constitution by which American labor can be protected against the competition of the pauper labor of 10,000,000 Asiatics."

Mr. Carmack (Tenn.) suggested that the democrats had voted to ratify the treaty because they believed on the assurance of republicans—Mr. Hepburn among them—that the Philippines were to be treated as Cuba was to be treated—that they were to be retained only temporarily.

Mr. Hepburn indignantly denied that anybody, speaking for the republican party, had ever offered such an assurance.

Preamble Offered.

Preamble Offered.

Mr. Payne's amendment was then agreed o without division, and he offered the folowing to come in before the enacting

"Whereas the people of Porto Rico hav been deprived of markets for a large porbeen deprived of markets for a large por-tion of their products and have lost prop-erty and crops by severe and unusual storms, whereby they are impoverished and are unable to pay internal revenue and di-rect taxes, and, "Whereas temporary revenue is necessary, for their schools, their roads and their in-ternal improvements and the administra-tion of their government; now, therefore," etc.

Mr. Cummings Stirs Up the House. At this point Mr. Cummings (N. Y.) threw

the House into a furore of excitement. He described how he believed it to be the duty of every man in a great crisis to ris above party and support the government as he had done during the Spanish war "I believe now we should follow the lead of the President," said he emphatically, "and I will vote for this bill—" will vote for this bill—
This statement electrified the House. The

This statement electrified the House. The republicans, without waiting for him to finish his sentence, rose en masse and cheered, while the democrats sat stunned and dazed. Mr. Cummings stood with arm upraised until the republican applause ceased.

"I will vote for this bill," he continued, addressing the republican side, "in accordance with the advice of the President for absolute free trade with Porto Rico."

It was now the turn of the democrats to cheer, and for several minutes they made the rafters ring.

The excitement and confusion increased as the time for the voting drew near. The

the time for the voting drew near. The seats on the floor filled up until both sides showed very full representations.

The public galleries were packed with crowds extending far out into the corricrowds extending far out into the corridors. The private gallery of the President's household and the diplomatic gallery were also well filled. In the front gallery sat the Duke de Arcos, the Spanish minister, who listened to Mr. Cummings' ringing sentence, addressed to the republican side: "You have snatched Porto Rico from the talons of Spain."

Preamble Adopted. Upon the amendment of Mr. Payne to inert a preamble before the enacting clause the rising vote was 163 year to 151 nays.

THE SENATE.

Soon after the Senate convened today Mr. Aldrich (R. I.) called up the conference report on the financial bill, and made an explanation of the differences between the Senate bill and the conference bill. The first change was in the section defining the standard. It was, he said, purely a verbal change-a change in phraseology -and undoubtedly strengthened the sec

tion. The second change was a provision inserted in the bill making it the express duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain the reserve fund in order that the parity of United States money should be preserved. Mr. Aldrich thought the Senate bill did impose that duty, but the House conferees insisted that the injunc-tion should be incorporated in the bill in

The next change provided that the gold reserve might be held in gold coin "or The next change provides and to some reserve might be held in gold coin "or bullion," the last two words being added, because the present facilities of the coinage of gold would not at present admit of coining the gold in sufficient quantity to maintain at all times the reserve on the

Silver Certificates.

.The next amendment provided that so long as the aggregate amount of United States notes and silver certificates in the general fund of the treasury shall exceed 200,000 000 the Secretary may suspend the issue of certificates. This, Mr. Aldrich said, was simply another way of protecting

the reserve.

The next amendment provided that the Secretary of the Treasury might issue 10 per cent of the total volume of silver cer-(Continued on Second Page.)

STORM IN THE WEST

Heaviest Snowfall in Years at Many Points.

SLEET AND RAIN IN ST. LOUIS

Street Car Traffic Blocked and

RAILROAD TRAINS DELAYED

Telephone Wires Suffer.

CHICAGO, February 28.-Local traffic was locked in parts of the city by the snow storm which started last night, and trains were badly delayed. The weather bureau announced today that the snowfall was the heaviest in years, averaging nearly seven inches in the middle western states. It was stated that the conditions gave no promise of any abatement of the storm before to-

The greatest snowfall, according to the weather map, is in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, southern Michigan, northern Indiana outheastern Iowa and southeastern Wisconsin. Railroads running through these states report trains from half an hour to five hours late. The C. B. and O. Kansas City train was reported five hours late at Galesburg, and making progress only with the aid of snow plows. All the roads sent the aid of snow plows. All the roads sent out their plows and phalangers during the night. In Chicago traffic was carried on with the greatest difficulty—the streets being blocked by great drifts of snow. A falle of cable cars were tied up on the North Side line for hours, and in other portions of the city the blockade was so effective that many people were compelled to wade through the snow on foot to their places of businers.

Outside of Chicago.

Reports received from various cities in Cennessee, Milssissippi and Louisiana indicate that the storm is general down the Mississippi valley, although the snow line does not extend very far south of St. Louis Mo. Heavy sleet storms are reported south Mo. Heavy sleet storms are reported south of St. Louis and Centralia III. with much damage to telegraph and telephone wires, while severe wind and electrical storms are reported from points in northern Mississippi, as far south as Independence, La.

At Wichita, Kan., the deepest snow that has fallen in that section for years covered the ground today. It was a foot deep on the level.

In St. Joseph, Mo., railroad and street railway traffic was demoralized and many trains were abandoned last night and this morning. Some of the street railway lines were not opened until noon today.

were not opened until noon tod

Sleet and Rain in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., February 28.-The snow that fell yesterday to a depth of several inches was followed-last night by sleet and rain, that froze as it came down, and cov-ered everything with a thick-coating of ice. Wires and poles in every direction are down with the weight of ice and hundreds of trees are broken. The electric lighting and power companies suffered considerably by crossed wires, but were able to keep their

crossed wires, but were able to keep their systems in operation.

For several hours street car traffic was almost entirely blocked. Ice covered rails and broken trolley wires caused the delay which extended to every street car line in the city. So far as known, there were no casualties, but several horses were killed by live wires and a number of persons had narrow escapes from death. Railroad trains were badly delayed.

Trains Late at Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., February 28.-The outhwest is under a mantle of snow that lies from two to three fee; deep on the evel. Trains are late in all directions, telegraph and telephone facilities are badly in terrupted, and at some points in Kansas, where the wind has piled the snow in high drifts, outside business has been abandoned. In Kansas City street car service has been almost at a standavill since last night. In the immediate vicinity of Kansas City

high temperature prevailed, and no seri ous suffering is reported. From Kansas and the territories, where the snow was and the territories, where the snow was accompanied by sleet and a strong wind, come reports of damage to stock. It was the fiercest storm experienced in the south-west for several years. The snow stopped falling today.

DIED IN A MEXICAN JAIL.

Fate of Edward Turner, a Locomotive

Information has reached the State Department of the death of Edward Turner. an American engineer who had been lodged In jail at Orizaba, Mexico, for about ten months on a charge of criminal negligence, in connection with the wreck of a train on the Interoceanic railroad. Turner's hom was in Kansas, and he had remained in prison probably six months before the attention of the American authorities was called to the case, the prisoner not having made any complaint to them. His identity and condition became known to them through a newspaper clipping, and the am-bassador to Mexico, Mr. Powell Clayton, at bassador to Mexico, Mr. Powell Clayton, at once took steps to ascertain the facts and to render what assistance he could to the imprisoned man. Turner complained of the unnecessary delay in trying him, and was assured the case should have prompt attention. After waiting several months, and before the time for the trial arrived, he died

The legal difficulties in Mexico, it is explained, are similar to those often experienced in the United States, where the fed-

rienced in the United States, where the federal government exercises no direct supervision over crimes committed in a particular state, but the matter is left to the officials of the jurisdiction in which the crime may have been committed.

The other engineer, Clark, also from Kansas, who was imprisoned about the same time as Turner, it is said on a somewhat similar charge, is still alive, and his cause is reported to be progressing with a view to a prompt settlement.

SUICIDE OF LIEUT. WATCH.

Was Temporarily Deranged From Gen. Otts has reported to the War Department that Second Lieut. John R. Waugh, 29th Volunteer Infantry, shot himself through the heart while temporarily deranged from extreme nervousness on the norning of the 27th instant at Manila

Lieut, Waugh was born at Crete, Neb., in 1876, and was a cadet at the Military Academy from June 15, 1894, to March 1, 1896. He enlisted as a private in the 1st Artillery n 1897, and after a year's service was transferred to the Signal Corps as a cor-poral in May, 1898. He was acting in that capacity in the Philippines when he was commissioned second lieutenant in the 39th Volunteer Infantry on August 17, 1889, and served with that regiment I

A Treaty Favorably Considered.

The Senate committee on foreign rela-tions today agreed to report favorably the treaty between the United States and Great Britain prescribing conditions for the regdie in Great Britain and of British subjects who die in the United States. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was not con-sidered.

THE ROAD TO FORTUNE.

The Road to Fortune is

through Printer's Ink .- D